



November 29, 2016

Dear Fellow Members of the NYU Community:

In recent days I have heard from many expressing deep concern about the well-being of immigrant and especially undocumented members of our community. Specifically, many of you want to know that we are affording our full protection and support to everyone who lives, studies, and works at NYU.

I want to assure all of you that that is our goal. We are bound together as a community, each member valued, each member belonging here, each member deserving of the support that NYU can give. Documented or undocumented, these are our peers, colleagues, and friends.

For that reason, I want you to know that:

- NYU does not allow any federal agency to enter NYU buildings without permission or legal process (e.g. a search warrant from a court or a subpoena). Such permission is not given for targeting undocumented members of our community or for gathering information on them. The same standard applies to requests for information that is in NYU's possession.
- NYU's public safety officers do not inquire as to an individual's immigration status. To the extent that public safety officers discover any information on immigration status, they do not and will not voluntarily convey such information status to any governmental entity. They are not sworn peace officers and would not be participating in any enforcement activities with federal immigration authorities. In New York City, NYU relies heavily on the NYPD, which, under the "sanctuary city" policy, does not alert federal immigration authorities about the immigration status of undocumented individuals except in very specific circumstances, such as in response to a judicial warrant for an individual wanted for a violent or serious felony.
- As stated in our Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy for Students, NYU prohibits discrimination based on race, gender and/or gender identity or expression, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or citizenship status. These protections extend to all members of the community – including those who are undocumented – as well as to the academic, residential, and working environments.
- Student records – including the records of those who are undocumented – are subject to the strict privacy protections set forth in the University's policy under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

- The NYU Bias Response Line does not solicit information on immigration status. If an individual chooses to disclose this information in the course of making a complaint, the University would not share this information with external parties unless we were required to do so by a lawfully issued subpoena.
- In conjunction with the NYU Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, NYU is undertaking a climate survey to gather information on the experiences in our living, working, and academic environment. When survey respondents hit “submit,” their information will automatically be downloaded to the consultant’s database through a process that immediately separates the respondent’s IP address from the individual. The consultant will give NYU the database at the end of the study period. The database will not contain any IP addresses and so there is no way to identify any respondents. It’s also worth noting that the Climate Study Working Group will determine what questions are included on the survey and will carefully weigh the benefits and potential negative consequences of each question.
- University financial assistance to non-citizens (documented and undocumented) is independent of federal financial aid programs and will continue regardless of changes in national policy. We will continuously evaluate the situation of our students to ensure that we are maximizing benefits within our financial constraints.
- I was proud to sign onto a letter with other college presidents last week urging the new administration to continue with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA.) We will continue to add NYU’s voice to efforts to advocate for the best interests of the NYU community to the federal government as well as to our representatives.
- NYU will be posting guidance to help immigrant and undocumented members of our community navigate the evolving situation with regard to national policy on immigration. Those who need immediate legal assistance can start by approaching the NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic through Professor Alina Das at alina.das@nyu.edu, who has graciously offered assistance and guidance through the clinic.

Finally, I want to assure everyone that the administration and Board are acutely aware of the anxiety in our community. Dialogue is key. I will do my best to update you as the situation evolves and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,



Andrew D. Hamilton

President